

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image data conversion apparatus for converting input image data of four colors consisting of cyan, magenta, yellow and black into output image data, said image data conversion apparatus comprising:

a detection section for detecting an existence of a point or an area on an image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value exceeding a first predetermined value, and black has a value exceeding a second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data; and

a conversion section having two modes of a first mode wherein said input image data is converted into output image data which is independent of an existence of said detection section, and a second mode wherein in the event that the detection section detects an existence of the point or the area, the input image data is converted into an output image data which is representative of an existence of the point or the area;

wherein when said detection section detects non-existence of the point or the area, said conversion section converts, in the second mode, the input image data into the same output image data as a case where the input image data is converted into the output image data in the first mode.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): An image data conversion apparatus according to claim 1, An image data conversion apparatus for converting input image data of four colors consisting of cyan, magenta, yellow and black into output image data, said image data conversion apparatus comprising:

a detection section for detecting an existence of a point or an area on an image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value exceeding a first predetermined value, and black has a value exceeding a second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data; and

a conversion section having two modes of a first mode wherein said input image data is converted into output image data which is independent of an existence of said detection section, and a second mode wherein in the event that the detection section detects an existence of the point or the area, the input image data is converted into an output image data which is representative of an existence of the point or the area;

wherein said detection section detects the existence of the point or the area together with position information on an image of the point or the area, and

wherein when said detection section detects the existence of the point or the area, said conversion section converts, in the second mode, a fact that the point or the area exists into an output image data in which the position information on the image of the point or the area is involved.

4. (original): An image data conversion apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when said detection section detects the existence of the point or the area, said conversion section

converts, in the second mode, a fact that the point or the area exists into an output image data in which the point or the area is represented by a predetermined color.

5. (original): An image data conversion apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said input image data is a multi-value of input image data, and said detection section detects an existence of the point or the area on the image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value exceeding 0 as the first predetermined value, and black has a value exceeding 0 as the second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data.

6. (original): An image data conversion apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said input image data is a binary input image data consisting of 0 and 1, and said detection section detects an existence of the point or the area on the image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value 1 exceeding 0 as the first predetermined value, and black has a value 1 exceeding 0 as the second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data.

7. (currently amended). A computer readable storage medium storing an image data conversion program which causes a computer to operate as an image data conversion apparatus for converting input image data of four colors consisting of cyan, magenta, yellow and black into output image data, said image data conversion program comprising:

a detection section for detecting an existence of a point or an area on an image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value exceeding a first predetermined value, and black has a value exceeding a second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data; and

a conversion section having two modes of a first mode wherein said input image data is converted into output image data which is independent of an existence of said detection section, and a second mode wherein in the event that the detection section detects an existence of the point or the area, the input image data is converted into an output image data which is representative of an existence of the point or the area,

wherein when said detection section detects non-existence of the point or the area, said conversion section converts, in the second mode, the input image data into the same output image data as a case where the input image data is converted into the output image data in the first mode.

8. (currently amended). A computer-readable storage medium storing an image data re-conversion program which causes a computer to operate as an image data re-conversion apparatus for re-converting input image data of four colors consisting of cyan, magenta, yellow and black into output image data, said image data re-conversion program comprising:

a detection section for detecting an existence of a point or an area on an image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value exceeding a first predetermined value, and black has a value exceeding a second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data; and

a re-conversion section having two modes of a first mode wherein said input image data is converted into output image data which is independent of an existence of said detection section, and a second mode wherein in the event that the detection section detects an existence of the point or the area, the input image data is re-converted into an output image data which is representative of an existence of the point or the area,

wherein when said detection section detects non-existence of the point or the area, said re-conversion section converts, in the second mode, the input image data into the same output image data as a case where the input image data is converted into the output image data in the first mode.

9. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, An image data conversion apparatus for converting input image data of four colors consisting of cyan, magenta, yellow and black into output image data, said image data conversion apparatus comprising:

a detection section for detecting an existence of a point or an area on an image in which any one of cyan, magenta and yellow has a value exceeding a first predetermined value, and black has a value exceeding a second predetermined value, in accordance with the input image data; and

a conversion section having two modes of a first mode wherein said input image data is converted into output image data which is independent of an existence of said detection section, and a second mode wherein in the event that the detection section detects an existence of the point or the area, the input image data is converted into an output image data which is representative of an existence of the point or the area;

wherein in the second mode, the output image data corresponds to erasure of a portion of an image to be blacked out.

10. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the output image data corresponds to output data of $R = G = B =$ a predetermined value for erasure.